Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A storage system to be coupled to an IP network, said storage system comprising:

a physical input/output port to be coupled to the IP network;

a control unit coupled to the physical input/output port; and

a plurality of disk drives coupled to the control unit,

the physical input/output port being ~~assigned with~~ accessible by a block I/O request having a first port number ~~for receiving a block I/O request~~ via the IP network and a file I/O request having a second port number ~~for receiving a file I/O request~~ via the IP network,

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a plurality of volumes, of which a first volume is assigned~~allocated~~ to store data related to the block I/O request and a second volume is assigned~~allocated~~ to store data related to the file I/O request,

~~wherein the block I/O request includes the first port number and the file I/O request includes the second port number.~~

when an I/O request ~~including the first port number is~~ received at the control unit via the physical input/output port is the block I/O request including the first port number, the control unit performs a first operation, corresponding to the first port number, for storing data in the first volume,

when an I/O request ~~including the second port number is~~ received at the control unit via the physical input/output port is the file I/O request including the second port number, the control unit performs a second operation, corresponding to the second port number, for storing data in the second volume.

36. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 35, wherein the block I/O request has an IP packet that includes the first port number and first information including an address in the first volume.

37. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 35, wherein the file I/O request has an IP packet that includes the second port number and second information including file data.

38. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 35, wherein the block I/O request has a TCP packet in which the first port number is included.

39. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 36,

wherein the IP packet encapsulates a TCP packet in which the first port number is included.

40. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 35, wherein the first volume and the second volume are concurrently ~~allocated~~assigned.

41. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 35, wherein the control unit maps relationships between logical addresses of the ~~each~~ volumes and physical addresses of the disk drives to which data is to be stored ~~data~~.

42. (Currently Amended)) A storage system coupled to an IP network, the storage system comprising:

a physical port coupled to the IP network;

a control unit coupled to the physical port; and

a plurality of disk drives coupled to the control unit,

the physical port being accessible by a block I/O request having a first port number and first information ~~wherein first and second port number re-assigned to the physical port, the first port number for receiving a block I/O request~~ from a first processor via the IP network and ~~the~~a file I/O request having a second port number

and second information ~~for receiving a file I/O request~~ from a second processor via the IP network,

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a plurality of volumes, of which a first volume is assigned to store data related to the block I/O request and a second volume is assigned to store data related to the file I/O request, and

~~wherein the block I/O request includes the first port number and a first information and the file I/O request includes the second port number and a second information,~~

when an I/O request including the first port number is received from~~form~~ the first processor at the control unit via the physical port, ~~wherein,~~ the control unit performs a first operation, corresponding to the first port number, for storing data in the first volume,

when an I/O request including the second port number is received from the second processor at the control unit via the physical port, the control unit performs a second operation, corresponding the second port number, for storing data in the second volume.

43. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein the block I/O request has an IP packet that includes the first port number and the first information including an address in the first volume.

44. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein the file I/O request has an IP packet that includes the second port number and the second information including file data.

45. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein the block I/O request has a TCP packet in which the first port number is included.

46. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 43,

wherein the IP packet encapsulates a TCP packet in which the first port number is included.

47. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein the first volume and the second volume are concurrently ~~allocated~~ assigned.

48. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein the control unit maps relationships between logical addresses of ~~the each~~ volumes and physical location of the disk drives to which data is to be stored.

49-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A storage system to be coupled to an IP network, said storage system comprising:

a physical port to be coupled to the IP network;

a control unit coupled to the physical port; and

a plurality of disk drives ~~to be~~ coupled to the control unit;

wherein ~~first and second port numbers are assigned to~~ the physical port is accessible by a first IP packet having a, ~~the~~ first port number ~~for receiving a first IP packet~~ via the IP network and a second IP packet having a~~the~~ second port number ~~for receiving a second IP packet~~ via the IP network,

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a plurality of volumes, of which a first volume is assigned~~allocated~~ to store data related to the first IP packet and a second volume is assigned~~allocated~~ to store data related to the second IP packet,

~~wherein the first IP packet includes the first port number and block data, and the second IP packet includes the second port number and file data,~~

when the first IP packet is received at the control unit via the physical port, the control unit performs a first operation, corresponding to the first port number, for storing ~~the~~ block data in the first volume,

when the second IP packet is received at the control unit via the physical port, the control unit performs a second operation, corresponding to the second port number, for storing ~~the~~ file data in the second volume.

57. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 56,

wherein the first IP packet has a TCP packet in which the first port number is included.

58. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 56,

wherein the second IP packet ~~encapsulates~~has a TCP packet in which the second port number is included.

59. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 56,

wherein the control unit transforms the file data into block data for storing in the second volume.

60. (New) A storage system according to claim 35,

wherein a format of file I/O related to the file I/O request is on the basis of NFS protocol, and the second operation is performed on the basis of the NFS protocol.

61. (New) A storage system according to claim 35,

wherein a format of the block I/O request is on the basis of SCSI protocol, and the first operation is performed on the basis of the SCSI protocol.

62. (New) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein a format of the file I/O request is on the basis of NFS protocol, and the second operation is performed on the basis of the NFS protocol.

63. (New) A storage system according to claim 42,

wherein a format of the block I/O request is on the basis of SCSI protocol, and the first operation is performed on the basis of the SCSI protocol.

64. (New) A storage system according to claim 56,

wherein a format of the file data is on the basis of NFS protocol, and the second operation is performed on the basis of the NFS protocol.

65. (New) A storage system according to claim 56,

wherein a format of the block data is on the basis of SCSI protocol, and the first operation is performed on the basis of the SCSI protocol.